we will be able to do it within this financial year because the difficulty is that it is of 10 to 12 reels which is a very big one and costs a lot of money when we have to look after the others also. It is not true that we are not aware of the psyche of Assam because, Sir, a very well-known film has been given to Mr. Baruah himself which is regarding the 'Freedom Struggle-Contribution of Assam". It is in production under him. Three more are already there. In fact, in Assam, we have given a total of 34. I think, it is one of the highest averages so far as India is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increased equity participation by foreign companies

@*202. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow existing foreign companies to raise their equity participation in Indian companies to 51 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are its likely effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision contained in Para 39 B of the Statement on Industrial Policy, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24-07-1991, Government have laid down the procedure for increase in foreign equity upto 51 per cent in existing companies which already have some foreign equity holding. This facility is expected to promote technology transfer and increased marketing and financial support to existing companies. More importantly, it is expected to promote expansion and diversification of activities into high priority areas, thereby leading to increased production, promote exports and greater employment opportunities.

@Previously Starred Question 162, transferred from the 3rd December, 1991.

Scheme to ameliorate the living conditions of poor rural women

*205. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched or proposed to launch a scheme to ameliorate the living conditions of poor rural women;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the benefits likely to be derived from the scheme; and

(d) what is the machinery proposed to be evolved to monitor the working of the scheme in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a scheme for improvement in the living conditions of poor rural women namely 'Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas' (DWCRA) since 1982-83, as a Sub-scheme of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Groups of oment belonging to the families identified to be living below the poverty line are provided with income generating activities to supplement their family income, At present, 240 districts in the country are covered. It is expected that women belonping to the families below the poverty line would benefit from additional income, better standard of life through access to other support services and expowerment through group interaction. Government also propose to introduce Indira Mahila Yojana, detailed features of which have not yet been decided.

(d) A machinery to promote and monitor DWCRA has been set up at the State, District and field level. At the State level, a Deputy Secretary with some

staff, at the District level, an Assistant Project Officer, DRDA and at the field level, an Additional Gram Sevika per Block are provided for this purpose. Advisory Committee with representation of women, voluntary agencies and research bodies have also been set up at the Centre and States.

Losses incurred by deep sea fishing industry

*206. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the deep-sea fishing industry is incurring losses;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by it during the last three years alongwith the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to revitalise the industry specially in the field of export promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The deep-sea fishing industry faced problems in the year 1987-1990 due to low catch, fall in the price of shrimp in the international market and agitation by a section of crew resulting in idling of the vessels. The exact estimate of losses incurred by various companies is not available. The situation has reportedly improved in the current fishing season as the catches of deep sea fishing vessels have since improved and the exports of marine products are showing increasing trend. For revitalising the industry a scheme for rehabilitation has been formulated, the salient features of which are given in Statement I" (*See* below) for boosting exports, various schemes that are under implementation are given in State ment 'II'.

Statement-I

The main highlights of the scheme are as under:—

(a) All those companies in respect of which liability for payment of interest and/or repayment of the principal amount of the loan had commenced before June 30, 1987, would repay the entire overdues on account of interest and principal repayment as on June 30, 1987 before the commencement of the rehabilitation package. Of the total overdues, an amount equivalent to 10 per cent of the overdues would be payable within a month and the balance 90 per cent within six months of the commencement of the scheme.

(b) In case of the companies where the payment of interest and/or payment of principal amount of loan had not commenced till June 30, 1987, the concerned Company would pay 25 per cent of the overdues as on June 30, 1990 in the same manner as stated in para (a) above.

(c) As a part of the rehabilitation package the penal interest would be waived and interest would be computed at the document rate for the period commencing from July 1987 to June, 30, 1991. The interest for the period ending June 30, 1991, this computed would be capitalised and added to the principal amount of loan.

(d) The Govt. of India would consider providing additional loans for financial increase in the cost of the vessel on account of exchange fluctuations in respect of imported vessels where the payment to the yards are outstanding or the vessels are yet to the delivered.

(e) The Government of India/SCICI would consider providing additional loans to meet the cost of increase in the cost of indigenous vessel where the payments to the yards are yet to be delivered.

(f) The Government of India/SCICI would consider providing additional loans to meet the cost of repair of the vessel owned by companies availing of this rehabilitation package.

(g) SCICI would consider additional loan for modification/additions of fishing gear for diversified fishing gy the existing trawlers.